

Maize Seed Systems Specialist for southern Africa

Use your skills in seed systems and plant breeding to help ensure food security for the poor in southern Africa! **The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)** is looking for an innovative, results-oriented **Maize Seed Systems Specialist** with excellent understanding and skills in seed production and plant breeding, to join our international team of scientists working on improving the livelihoods of maize farmers in the developing world. The scientist will work as a member of **CIMMYT's Global Maize Program (GMP)** and will contribute to the deployment of high-yielding, stress tolerant maize germplasm in sub-Saharan Africa. The position contributes to and draws on the experiences of a large multi-disciplinary research team with focus on deploying improved maize cultivars and maize-legume cropping systems. The position will be based at the CIMMYT office in Harare, Zimbabwe, but will involve frequent travel, including to other CIMMYT field sites in Africa, besides active collaboration with public and private seed enterprises, and local and international partners.

The primary responsibilities will include:

- Assist in seed production and deployment of improved stress-tolerant maize cultivars to resource-poor farmers in southern Africa, in active collaboration with the existing seed systems in the region and establishing new ones.
- Assist in the design and implementation of seed commercialization plans, including inbred line maintenance, production of breeders, pre-basic and basic seed of parental lines of CIMMYT cultivars, partnership with relevant public and private sector institutions for increased certified seed production, and field-based activities for promotion and enhanced adoption of CIMMYT varieties by the target communities.
- Work with partner organizations involved in promoting and harmonizing the seed sector in eastern and southern Africa.
- Work with other CIMMYT staff to improve the capacity (including development of training modules on seed production, and conduct training in seed business management, seed multiplication, seed marketing, quality assurance, etc.) of public and private sector partners in the seed systems (including small- and medium-sized seed companies, community-based and non-governmental organizations) to empower them to produce and distribute maize seed (breeder, basic, and certified).

We are seeking candidates with the following qualifications:

- PhD degree in Plant Breeding, Crop Agronomy, Seed Technology or related field.
- Applied knowledge in maize seed production, management of demonstration and validation trials, variety release procedures, seed regulations, seed quality, experimental design, field trial management, data analyses using different statistical programs, and field experimental operations, preferably in maize.
- Experience in seed sector development, seed business management, and seed dissemination.
- A record of publications in peer reviewed international journals, or a successful record of hybrid maize commercialization
- Proficiency in written and spoken English, with an ability to communicate information in a cogent and informative manner
- Strong self motivation and innovative skills
- Demonstrated good communication and organizational skills and ability to teach.
- Demonstrated ability to work collegially and collaboratively in diverse, multicultural partnerships

CIMMYT (www.cimmyt.org) is an internationally funded, non-profit research and training organization affiliated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, www.cgiar.org) and has an annual budget of about US\$ 90 million. CIMMYT's mission is to sustainably increase the productivity of maize and wheat systems to ensure global food security and reduce poverty. The center is a global leader in maize and wheat breeding, biotechnology, socioeconomics, and natural resource management research. CIMMYT employs about 700 permanent staff and operates through decentralized partnership, with staff in 18 countries and projects and networks in many more.

The position is for an initial fixed-term of three years, renewable based on performance and availability of funds. CIMMYT offers an attractive remuneration package paid in US dollars, with a range of benefits including housing allowance, life and health insurance, education allowance (to Grade 12), home leave, retirement fund, and relocation shipping assistance.

CIMMYT is an equal-opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

Apply online no later than **December 5, 2011**.

At www.cimmyt.org, click on "About us – Job Opportunities- 2011/15 Position" Please complete the online application, including your cover letter, competencies and experience for the position, and a detailed CV/resume.

For further information, contact **Dr. B.M. Prasanna**, Director, Global Maize Program, b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org or the Human Resources Office, jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org. *Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*